AN INTIMATE GLIMPSE INTO ALBANIA

771 years ago as to whether it was to be Christian
551 or Moslem. Therefore, in silent compromise, the elder members of the inhabitants had two names: the Moslem one used for public purposes, and the Christian one used privately and for baptisms and marriages, for these ceremonies a priest was smuggled in and out of the neighborhood by night. It was only about thirty years ago that the Christians felt free to declare openly their faith; this was due greatly to the intervention of the Austrians and Russians. However, those of the older generation retain their Moslem names but their children have been given Christian names only.

312 Perhaps of greatest interest to one visiting
529 this fascinating country for health purposes,
757 will be the healing springs at Llixha, only a few readily negotiable miles from Elbasan. These most unusual springs are certain cures for various forms of rheumatism. The sulphuric waters are so healing that merely by the repeated emptying of cans of water over the body in the oriental fashion many cures have been effected. The ground around these springs is very warm, and until forty years ago, before the useful invasion of the modern

baths and hotels, the natives dug large holes near the springs of the desired temperature and saturated themselves therein until cured. The weirdest phenomena of nature lies in the fact that the temperature of the springs is extremely varied: there are the cool, almost cold, enjoyable springs and others that are of varying degrees of heat up to the boiling point. It has been ascertained, however, that the mineral content of all the springs is the same. These famous sulphur baths have performed many seemingly miraculous cures, and are considered usurpers of Carlsbad; and what is more important, the price of living is unbelievably low. The price one pays a day in the average European capital would serve for three or four luxurious days in Albania. It is really amazing that the price of regained health should be so astonishingly moderate. The advent of comfortable and convenient hotels has greatly increased the value of these health-restoring springs, and make them the most desirable of their kind in Europe. One of the most outstanding of these hotels is the Park Hotel constructed on European lines with comfortable bathrooms, electric light and electrotherapy by a visiting doctor.

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Durazzo Beach

529

ALONG the crystal-white sands of the beach and on to the opposite end of the bay, are comfortable villas not more than fifty yards from the water. The last villa in this scattered row belongs to the King of the Albanians.

Looking from the far end of the beach towards Durazzo, one is faced with a view that contains more color than the Entrance of the Bay at Naples. There is the same rich blue of the water and its reflection in the vast, blue vault of the heavens, the various startlingly vivid colors of the town with two or three slender, graceful spires rearing their gold-tipped heads upward and here the resemblance ends; Naples has no more; but Durazzo presents a picture nestled into the olive-green and brownness of the surrounding mountains —like a rare and priceless opal placed on a piece of half-blue and tawny velvet.

342 The villas are built comfortably of stucco and native stone and are very light and airy. It will completely astonish some to learn that

these five and six room villas can be built for, including the price of the land, from $800.00 to $1,500.00 and live as comfortably as in a city with much more offered them; and strange as it may seem, there are only about a dozen villas, most of them belonging to government officials, along this ideal beach, with its white, clean sand and the cool waters of the Adriatic. Nothing is more enviable than to see these people on a hot morning taking a cool, refreshing "dip" before breakfast and to walk back—fifty yards—to their front porches for a delicious meal—taking life easily and leisurely and enjoying it to the fullest. For those who work all winter in a close office, the warm, healing air of the Adriatic is as a rebirth. And for those who are more inclined to mountain-climbing, they have only to walk about a half mile and begin the long, steady climb up to the summits of the Albanian mountains and they shall be rewarded with views that are indescribable. These great hills are covered with rich olive and fig trees and in the spring are complete blankets of irises. These dainty little flowers the natives bring down and plant before their villas, or in boxes for ornamentation. For the artist,

* [Errata: should be one can live, Cf. Errata sheet, cat. 11, p. 269 — Anal, st.]

DURAZZO BEACH

• 529 Albania is as a paradise the year around; a rich riot of color and landscape is his reward in whatever direction he may turn; and as character subjects, the Albanian people lend themselves as unique studies.

In no other country would it be possible to have the great advantages of the sea at your front door and the mountains for your back-yard, which abound in promise of adventure and discovery. Life in the summer is lazy and informal. The vacationer lives as only he has dreamed it possible, and enjoys a thorough relaxation in healing air, with wonderful swimming, aqua planing, water sports and mountain climbing. And a last feature of this interesting vicinity, but a very important one, is that Durazzo Beach is entirely free from those demoralizing pests—mosquitos.

346 An-
other place, among the numerous, to be visited with interest and close attention is the Neshad-Pasha Mosque which is a gem among its kind.

366 Here also is an exceedingly active branch of the Albanian National Bank.

• 529 From the center of the city, it is but a few kilometers' run to the seashore. In the cool of the day it is a delightful ride and after even a short swim in the clear waters one readily promises oneself to return to this lovely spot. For this strip of country from Valona to Himara is the Albanian Riviera and in no way can the rivieras of France and Italy surpass it. The climate is as agreeable, the natural beauties are far more picturesque, but the most inviting quality of this pleasant resort is that if privacy is desired it can be obtained and if, on the other hand, the gayety of a crowd is preferred, one has only to step from the front door and be buoyed along in a pleasant excitement.

315 A great deal of the wealth of Valona is derived from the rich petroleum fields that are situated near the city.

000 Another product important to Valona is

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Pogradec

361 THROUGH many narrow, shady and cool dales and over steep, majestic slopes, first along the Shkumbi River and then, after much winding and twisting, along the Langajaka River, we reach the town of Pogradec on the emerald shores of the charming Ochrida Lake, one of the prettiest in this more southernly district.

Pogradec is much visited by all who know of its fresh and invigorating climate in the summer; the Albanians themselves consider it one of the best and most healthy of summer resorts.

It is a small, clean, prosperous town encircled by some of the most beautiful mountainous scenery in Albania. The town is also noted for its friendly and hospitable appearance which adds much to the natural charm of its surroundings. It is essentially a city for relaxation with its marvelous fishing, and also because here there is wine and tobacco aplenty.